IN THE SPECIFICATION

On Page 10, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 16 as follows:

Fig 1 is a block diagram of a system for practicing an embodiment of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 1, a sender 10 transmits voice data to a receiver 12 via linking device 14. One or more additional data senders ~~16~~ 16a and 16b may also be connected to linking device 14. Collectively, sender 10, receiver 12, linking device 14, and a plurality of additional data senders, receivers, and linking devices comprise a network 15.

On Page 11, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 14 as follows:

Linking device 14 is configured to receive flows of data from a plurality of sources and to forward these data flows to their appropriate destinations. Although Fig. 1 shows linking device 14 connected to sender 10 and receiver 12, it will be appreciated that for purposes of practicing the present invention either or both of sender 10 and receiver 12 could be connected to linking device 14 via a series of one or more intermediate links 18a-b operable to facilitate communications to and from linking device 14.

On Page 12, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 1 as follows:

As shown in Fig. 1, senders 10 and ~~16~~ 16a and 16b and receiver 12 are connected to linking device 14 by connections 13. For purposes of practicing the present invention, it should be appreciated that connections 13 may comprise any suitable connection media. For example, the elements shown in Fig. 1 may communicate over communications channels that are leased from common carriers (e.g. telephone companies) or are provided by the owners of the network 15 or one or more sub-networks thereof. Connections 13 may comprise a variety of transmission media, including without limitation, optical fibers, coaxial cable, twisted copper pairs, satellite links, digital microwave radio, or any suitable combination thereof. Moreover, the links and elements of network 15, or the sub-networks thereof, may be distributed over a wide area spanning hundreds or thousands of miles or over local areas ranging from less than a few feet to several miles, in which case the networks are called wide area networks (WAN) or local area networks (LAN), respectively. Combinations of LANs and WANs are also possible. For example, widely separated LANs in branch offices could be connected via a WAN to the LAN in a corporate headquarters.

On Page 24, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 18 as follows:

With reference to Fig. 5B, if linking device 14 receives a voice packet with a pause indicator (138), linking device 14 checks to see if flow table 354 contains a record for that voice flow (140). If a record is not found, linking device 14 allocates a new record (144), increments or sets a counter, and records the flow information in flow table 354 (146). If a record already exists, then the linking device 14 preferably checks the record to determine whether the flow was already paused (142). If the flow was already paused, linking device 14 simply updates the flow information in flow table 354 (146). However, if the flow was not previously paused, linking device 14 also decrements a counter which keeps trace of the number of unpaused voice flows being handled for the link by linking device 14 (148). If there are no more unpaused voice flows (150) - i.e., if the counter is equal to zero - the link transitions back to the default state in which incoming packets are not fragmented and there is a change state condition (152). Linking device 14 then places the voice packet in the transmit queue (154), preferably at or near the front, and returns to monitoring incoming packets, either in state 120 if there were additional unpaused voice flows, or in state 80 if there were not.